

Important Advances in Clinical Medicine

Epitomes of Progress -- Radiology

The Scientific Board of the California Medical Association presents the following inventory of items of progress in Radiology. Each item, in the judgment of a panel of knowledgeable physicians, has recently become reasonably firmly established, both as to scientific fact and important clinical significance. The items are presented in simple epitome and an authoritative reference, both to the item itself and to the subject as a whole is generally given for those who may be unfamiliar with a particular item. The purpose is to assist the busy practitioner, student, research worker or scholar to stay abreast of these items of progress in Radiology which have recently achieved a substantial degree of authoritative acceptance, whether in his own field of special interest or another.

The items of progress listed below were selected by the Advisory Panel to the Section on Radiology of the California Medical Association and the summaries were prepared under its direction.

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Role of Laparotomy in Staging of Hodgkin's Disease

Laparotomy has been used with increasing frequency in the initial evaluation of patients with Hodgkin's disease. This procedure consists of a splenectomy, wedge biopsy of the liver, para-aortic lymph node biopsy (of nodes that appear suspicious on the lymphangiogram), and an open bone marrow biopsy. In young females who may have the pelvis irradiated, the ovaries are moved

to the midline (oophoropexy) in order to enable their shielding during pelvic irradiation. Staging laparotomy of this kind was done on 100 consecutive untreated and unselected patients with Hodgkin's disease.

Liver involvement is uncommon and has not been observed in the absence of involvement of the spleen.

Enlargement of the spleen is a poor criterion for involvement, as half of these patients with clinically enlarged spleens did not have disease in this organ. Unsuspected disease in the spleen was detected in approximately one-fourth of the patients. Seven patients had disease in the splenic hilar lymph nodes, occasionally occurring as the only site of disease below the diaphragm.

The staging laparotomy is an extremely useful technique to accurately stage Hodgkin's disease